



9(2)a

Dear 9(2)a,

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Hi George, regarding item one below –

“Correspondence relating to the lack of adoption of the analysis in Beaven and Litchfield 2012 in MfE 2017 and/or MfE 2022 relating to slow slip events and other uplift; This is a matter for Rob Bell and is possibly being pursued by Tash Lewis and/or Hannah Chorley – I’m interested in knowing why slow slip events were left out simply to inform myself as to whether they should be referred to in the 2022 Interim Guidance and the proposed 2023 update. It’s possible that when MfE 2017 was drafted the science behind SSEs was less clear – that’s all.”

On Sophie/Hannah’s advice, I have tried to progress this directly with Dr Rob Bell who was the lead draftsman for MfE 2017 and its update, MfE 2022. Rob is clearly aware of the ameliorating effects of slow slip events so it is surprising they did not feature prominently in either MfE 2017 or MfE 2022. He was contracted by MfE for both items of work and so is covered by the OIA. Rob is unresponsive so I make my request to you under the OIA. The last sentence this I have highlighted is wrong as slow slip events have been known about for many years.

On 7 December 2023, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requested that you refine your request. On the same day, you confirmed your agreement to the refined request below:

we’re slow slip events discussed in the context of vertical land movement affecting relative sea level and planning as part of the drafting or peer review process for the 2017 MfE document?

if so, why were their effects omitted from the 2017 document and the 2022 update?

if not, can a reason why be provided?

The Ministry has compiled the information in scope of your request in the document titled *OIA request_SR_Draft1*, which is being released to you in full.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Heighway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sophie Heighway
Manager – Climate Impacts
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao